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### **TIG, Grid West move forward fast**

Both the Transmission Improvements Group and Grid West are moving quickly to flesh out their respective proposals for improved Northwest grid operation and management. Both are working toward an Aug. 1 deadline. The Regional Representatives Group is serving as a joint discussion venue for both approaches. Now is a great time to get involved and help shape the future of transmission management in the Pacific Northwest. Here's a summary of what's going on:

### **TIG grows, adds substance**

Douglas County PUD and Chelan County PUD have jointly funded a seat on the TIG Steering Committee, becoming its newest member. The Steering Committee is now comprised of BPA and 10 other members. Northwest Requirements Utilities has indicated it would like to join TIG as a non-funding participant.

Four TIG work groups have been meeting regularly and are making progress toward developing workable solutions by the Aug. 1 deadline. The market monitor group and the planning/expansion group have made significant progress, which they will report to the Regional Representatives Group on May 26. The remaining TIG groups are expected to present substantive reports to the RRG in June.

### **Grid West seeks white paper comments**

How would Grid West really work? How would it address congestion on the Northwest grid? The answers, as now proposed, are now available for comment on the Grid West web site at [http://www.rtwest.com/TSLG\\_May2005Papers.htm](http://www.rtwest.com/TSLG_May2005Papers.htm). The Grid West Transmission Services Liaison Group has produced a set of white papers that outline how Grid West would operate and the services it would provide.

The TSLG is offering a free seminar on its proposal May 25-26 in Portland. To sign up, go to the RRG web site at [http://www.gridwest.org/RRG\\_Main.htm](http://www.gridwest.org/RRG_Main.htm)

### **RRG meets May 26-27**

The Regional Representatives Group will hear progress reports from both TIG and Grid West workgroups at its meeting in Portland May 26-27. The meeting will dovetail with the seminar on Grid West white papers. For details, see [http://www.gridwest.org/RRG\\_Main.htm](http://www.gridwest.org/RRG_Main.htm)

### **FERC seeks declaratory filing comments, interventions**

On May 13, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission officially published public notice of BPA's request for a declaratory order on aspects of Grid West. <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/dec-not.asp> (see 5/13/05: Notices). FERC is accepting interventions and comments on the request

through close of business Eastern time, May 27. So far, Snohomish PUD, Washington Public Utility Districts Association, Washington Public Agencies Group and the Public Power Council have intervened in the proceeding.

Grid West would not fulfill all the criteria of a regional transmission organization outlined in FERC's Order 2000 or its proposed Standard Market Design. But FERC commissioners have increasingly recognized the unique needs and character of the Northwest grid. Therefore, BPA asked FERC to clarify whether aspects of Grid West in its current bylaws would fulfill FERC's requirements for open, nondiscriminatory transmission access under FERC Order 888. PacifiCorp and Idaho Power Company joined the filing to ask whether joining Grid West would fulfill their responsibilities as FERC-jurisdictional utilities. The parties asked for a response by July 1.

### **Northwest One-Utility Grid News Purpose Statement**

*The Northwest transmission system is becoming increasingly constrained; there is broad regional agreement that the status quo needs to be improved. BPA believes it is important for the region to pick a path – soon – and move from discussion toward action. Two competing approaches are being developed: the Transmission Improvements Group would work within existing institutions, while Grid West would create a new transmission services provider under FERC jurisdiction. BPA is actively participating in both efforts through this summer.*

*This September, BPA will decide to move forward with one of these approaches. Our decision will be driven by what we believe is in the collective best interest of the region and will follow a formal BPA request for public comments. These e-mails, issued biweekly now through September, are intended to keep any and all interested parties apprised of involvement opportunities and BPA's perspective. To receive subsequent editions, go to <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/business/restructuring/> and sign up for "Allen's bi-weekly e-mail."*

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